THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Revelations of Surratt-President Lincoln's Assassins.

From the Times. The macvedous recitat of the adventures and pursuit of the conspirator Surratt furnishes an opening to the heretolors unwritten chapter in the history of President Luncoln's assassination. But deep as is the interest with which the narrative has opened, it is dull compared with the public anticipations of the revelations which are to be made before the chapter is brought to a close. That the actual facts may be got at, the whole truth be brought out, and the implicated parties be dealt with justly, is what is now earnestly desired by the country, and must be looked for in the trial which will soon occupy the attention of an American Court.

Fourteen months elapsed from the time that our Government received information that Sur' ratt had fled to Canada and thence to England, until the time that he was captured in Egypt, after his escape from arrest near Rome. During that entire period—in fact, during the period from the commission of the crime until his capture-we can trace the tootsteps of the wretched fugitive. And has a most extraordinary cur-cumstance that, from this city to Montreal, from Montreal to Three Rivers, from Quebec to Liverpool, from thence to Paris, and from Paris to Surratt appears to have everywhere found accomplices to assist his flight and furnish him with sica means as he needed. It would seem as if the term accomplices must be applied to these parties; for, after reading the documents, it cannot be doubted that, while aiding him, they were perfectly well aware of the part he played in the grand and memorable tragedy of April 14. He was secreted at Mon-treat, and assisted with money, for several months after his night from this country, was secreted by a priest at Turce Rivers. had his passage paid in a steamship from Canada

While at Liverpool, and staving at the Oratory of the Church of the Holy Cross, he "expecte.," if he did not receive, tunds from Mon-treat. Moreover, in England, he received money from London to carry him to Paris, and he obtained also a letter to a party in Paris who for warded him to Rome, where he enlisted in the Papal Zouaves. While in the Pope's mili-tary service he was well supplied with funds from one quarter or another. These items of information are not derived from one solitary source, which might be of doubtful reliability; but they are found in affidavits and consular statements taken in Canata, England, Rome, and elsewhere, by parties who had no know-ledge of the proceedings of each other. From these facts alone, it is evident that there is not a little that is startling yet to be brought out concerning the ramineations of the great con-

While saying this, however, it is well for the public to be cautioned against hasty imputa-ions upon paries mentioned in one or two passages of the despatches and their inclosures. In place a witness states, and subsequently swears to the sta ement, that Surratt told him the assassins acted under the orders of "men not yet known, some of whom are still in New York, and others in London." In other parts there are more explicit statements than this; but independently of the fact that several of Surratt's alleged declarations are contradictory of each other, we should be slow to credit the random remarks of a man who seems at times, like a fool, to have boasted of his part in the conspiracy, and to have threatened other sangumery deeds in the future. Even his alleged declaration that he had acted by the instructions of persons under the immediate orders of Jefferson Davis, and his reply to a question as to the implication of Davis in the assas ination, "I am not going to tell you," need not be taken as of any value whatever. The ordeal of a courtroom is required for such allegations and such

There is an allegation attributed to Surratt in the most intelligible, and, we judge, the most reliable, of all the statements made in the despatches, which seems confirmatory of what was at one time thought to be a plausible theory. We refer to the remark made to the officer of the vessel in which the culprit sailed for Europe, "that he bad been concerned in a plan for carrying off President Llucoln from Washington, which," he added, "was concocted entirely by J. Wilkes Booth and himself." It was held by some to be probable, at the time of the trial, that this kidnapping of the President was the original scheme of the conspirators, and that it might be the project which was countenanced by leading Southern Rebels. It might be re-garded as a legitimate act in time of war, and certainly, with Mr. Lincoln's habits, it would not have been a difficult deed to accomplish. According to a further statement of Surratt on this point, he received a letter while in Canada from Booth, saying that "it had become neces-sary to change their plans," and it would appear that before Surratt could reach Washington after this, the assassins had finished their work. There are many facts already on record apparently contradictory of this theory; but the point is one which, like others of interest previously mentioned, remains yet to be cleared up.

While the country is waiting for the arrival of Surratt, and speculating upon the revelations made in the documents we published on Tuesday, the officers of ju-tice will doubtless be busy collecting material to verify or elucidate such new points and hints as have been fur-Aished concerning the assussination. It has been urged in some quarters that it would be advisable to other Surratt exemption from punishment, and assured liberty and safety in future, if he would make a clean breast of all he knows, and furnish a confession of all the facts of which he was cognizant about the origin and history of the plot and the parties who were im-plicated in it. We should judge from what we already know of the man's character and statements, that he would not be unwilling to offer a confession in exchange for his life. But we believe that the facts will be quite as likely to be brought to light, in the first instance, if, after pleading "not guilty," the law and the lawyers are allowed to take their course with him.

We cannot refrain from mentioning, in connection with the publication of these documents, the atroclous charge recently and repeatedly made by a member of Congress, that the Administration, or rather the President and Secretary Seward (both of whom were marked objects for the assa sin's vengeance), had, with evil intent, attempted to conceal from the public the facts which had lately been brought to their knowledge about the real responsible authors of the great conspiracy. The object of this shame-less charge cannot be mentioned without de-grading our country in the eyes of the world. We know that the author of this charge has attempted to modify the form in which it was originally put forth, but even in the manner, and with the purpose, he now gives it, it is an inconceivable ourrage. We trust that in all its paris, in all its imputations, and in all its insinuations, it will now be retracted as publicly as it was made. as it was made.

The Evacuation of Rome. From the Tribune.

On September 15, 1864, France and Italy concluded a convention over the affairs of Rome. It was agreed primarily that Italy should neither attack nor permit attack upon the territorial temporality of his Holiness Pope Pius the Ninth; second, that France should withdraw her Pontifical garrison within two years; third, that Italy should not protest against a Papal army, even if composed of foreign Catholic volunteers, sufficient to guard the Papal frontier as well as interior, providing, of course,

that the Pope should not be so rash as to contrive or provoke war with his unholy neighbor, Finally, the Government of Italy declared its readiness to arrange to take charge of a proportionate part of the debt of the former States of the Church, and, as a corollary to these propositions, it was understood that the capital of Italy would be removed from Turin to Florence.

But the covenant does not appear to have been satisfactory. The Pope was sensible that its ferms simply implied that two very solicitous nations would watch him carefully while he was allowed to die at his convenience. He could have France to take care of him, and thus nurse its hoty invalid with the gentlest of bayonets, or he could organize an army of his own out of all sorts of the faithful willing to accept pay for their salvation, and keep the good people of the Papacy from anathematizing the Holy Father. But the Convention only took care of his lands; it did not relieve him from such a bed of thoras as threatened spontaneous revolution of the people of Rome. It would have been no com-jort to St. Lawrence of old to know that, while his body was being devoured by torture, a million of acres had been left to him by two designing relatives. The Pope had been endeavoring for many years to sleep over an Etna; but holy water, salutary though it may be as a spiritual baptism, wanted the temporal virtue to cool or quench those Titans of reform who belong to steam as well as to fire. Be he never so quiet a Pope, there never was so restless a people; and it he could sleep on top of a revolution, they had to keep awake under an

The Pope was uneasy about conspiracies and revolutionary agencies; so the teams of the Convention were interpreted by France to restrict the Italian Government from employing, among other violent means against the Pope, the maneuvres of revolutionists and agitators, all "moral means" to "consist solely in the forces of civilization and progress," and the only legitimate aspirations to be "those whose object is the reconciliation of Italy with the Papacy." The transfer from Tur n to Florence had an ob-The transfer from Turin to Florence had an obvious military meaning, and was a pledge to France. M. Drouyn de Lhuys further explained that "the event of a revolution breaking out spontaneously at Rome is not foreseen by the Convention, and France reserves her liberty of action for this eventuality," while the Italian Cabinet is to conserve the policy of Count Cavour, who "declared that Rome could only be united to Italy and become it; canula with the united to Italy and become its capital with the consent of France." The tone of General La Marmora's letter of reply evidently signifies that this extra-French interpretation of the code was

somewhat unnecessary.
Italy must of course cherish aspirations unfriendly to the temporality of the Pope; but, as these moral desires "belong to the national conscience, they cannot form the subject of an international discussion." Italy would abide by her compact, and, in an attitude of strict non-intervention, await its end. The Government of France baving reserved its liberty for the eventuality of an outbreak in Rome, Italy could do no less than save for herself the same freedom. The convention, while it, no doubt, served a purpose not altogether inimical to Italy, was denounced alke by the Roman Catholic party and the friends of Garibaldi and Mazzmi. But Generals La Marmora and Cial-dini, of Victor Emanuel's Ministry, and Baron Ricasoli, a distinguished ex-Minister, favored it as a measure of prudence and economy. Said Ricasoli:—"It is eventually certain that the Italians will count among their finest jewels, the noblest and the greatest of them all, the city of Rome. We are in effect taking Rome daily. I will say more-daily Rome is coming to us of herself."

The Convention went into effect at about this time two years ago, Consequently, the period of French occupation, according to the terms of 1864, has ended. It, indeed, Rome has been "daily coming to Italy," the withdrawal of French aid must certainly mean that she is almost at her goal, and that the people of Italy, divorced as Florence is from Rome, and man is from wife, are almost one again. We man is from wife, are almost one again. We doubt if the world is generally aware that an event of so much meaning is so quietly taking place. It should be looked for with more auxiety than astronomers watch for comets and star showers, for if it be all that we suppose, it is the great waymark of epochs and ages. Unless Napoleon intends to act in Rome the tedious ceremony of French leave 'which he is carrying out in Mexico, the Franco-Papal garrison will have leit on the stated day as quickly as the Arabs that folded up their tents and silently stole away. The Pope will still have left him his holy janusaries recruited from every kingdom, and ready, if need be, to slaughter the shriven and unshriven in the name of the cross. That blessed body-guard cannot be large enough to feel that in meeting a larger number of their foes, they assuredly carry with them certain religious mystifications of victory. On the con-trary, it will be we'll enough if they yet succeed in muzzling a poor Roman on a dark road at

The evacuation of Rome by the French troops begun on the 11th, and is proceeding to-day. Thus is about to pass off the stage of history the rearguard of the dark ages. Desperate abuse of power in the name of religion; crime committed as policy; the heart of the people wrung out of their prayers in order to feed an exchequer; pomp and circumstance such as no other autocratic power has so applied to bring alike the conscience and mind of man under the dominion of his fellow; these are the phases or a history for which there is no parallel in its grandeur and sadness, and such a history is hat of the temporality of Rome. It has served its day, and in certain respects its duty, no doubt; but this, it seems to us, must have been very long ago. The intrinsic usefulness of the Church of Rome as a material power is many centuries stale. It had long ceased to menace kings, to excommunicate princes, and burn out hereey. Lacking the power to admonish the great, it long ago ceased to be even of sinister

The career of the more recent Popes seems to have been spent principally in administering the estate of their predecessors, awaiting nervously the time when they should receive notice of eviction from its real owners, the people. Pope Prus the Ninth is about to go out ot business. All the better, we say, for him and for the world. Priests have no calling to trade and pray at the same time; to deal in usury as gatherers of taxes from the people. and between Church-craft and State-craft, sell religion in effect, as Judas sold Christ. The day of that and misuse of Christian authority ought now to expire by limitation. Whatever be the goodness and greatne-s of individual examples in a Church that has given so many saints to the calendar, though, on the other hand, it has its tyrants un-courged into history, we hold it best that the memory of the saints should rest in better sanctuary than among the rusty rubbish of a now almost effete tyranny. Better by far that the people should become more healthful, and therefore more holy, by the enlargement of the liberty to possess their own minds and to worship according to the sincerity of their hearts, than that a college of learned oppressors should be supported in

emporal sway. If the possession of one acre of Roman terri-tory—held by no more solemn tenure, earthly or divine, than that with which British superstition clings to its law of primogeniture-could work good to the world or religion, we should be glad to see the Pope remain a lord of lands as well as churches. But there are millions of clamorous heirs to the property he holds, and let him be ever so tenacious, might must be at last with the right. The evacuation of Rome, if it heralds the downfall of the temporal Papacy, signities even more. It is the beginning of the end of many wrongs, extending through all Europe-a reluctant and moody concession to progressive civil zation, and the carnest and onward will of the people. The Church and the State are bereafter to be divorced, and may that divorce be final, unless the spirit of the people and of liberty penetrates the Church as it has already entered the council chamber and the parliament. Whether it be the Church of Eng-land or the Church of Rr ne that is destined for the divorce, the world, let us hope, will be the gainer. That we desire not more for the sake gainer. That we desire not more for the same of the State than that of the Church; but for liberty's sake also.

The Late Disasters of the Democracy How the Party May be Revived. From the Herald.

From the unexpected and unprecedented disasters suffered by the Democracy in the recent elections, they stand confounded and demoralized. From Maine to Oregon the popular majorities rolled up against them rise to the grand aggregate of half a million. We may aptly compare this triumphant campaign of the Republicans to the grand march of Sherman, sweeping everything before him, through Georgia and the Carolinas, or to those terrific seven days of General Grant from Petersburg to Appomattox Court House, in which he demolished the army of Lee and crushed the Rebellion. And yet in sum total of more than a million of votes polled by the Democracy in these late elections, bey have still the nucleus for a powerful reor ganization.

But as with the lately insurgent States, so it is with the disjointed, deseated, and disorga-nized Democratic party—the first thing needed to set it upon its legs again is reconstruction. How can it be reconstructed so as to stand? Its old blundering Copperhead leaders and controlling newspaper organs are casting about, right and leit, and shooting off here and there in various directions, for some new road out of the "Slough of Despond," Thus, while the leading Copperhead party trumpeter in the West blows a clast for universal suffage, negroes and all, his Cop-perhead brethren of the East are consoling themselves with the idea of a dead lock on the Southern question, and propose to wait, like the excluded States and do nothing, in the hope hat "something may turn up." But this is a sorry expedient. It promises nothing, and if adopted it will result in nothing but the rapid disappearance of the remains of a party which will have given up the ghost,

Something better than this may be done upon he Northern Democratic nucleus of a milion and a quarter of votes. The exigency, how-ever, requires nothing less than a reconstruction of the party on a new foundation-a foundation of the practical ideas and practical issues thrown uppermost by the great political earth-quake which has swallowed up the things of the past. And what is the leading issue before the country? It is the pending Constitutional amendment. That is the settlement for the South, decreed by the popular voice of the mighty North. It cannot be evaded. It must enforced, because it is the will and the uttimatum of the North. Upon this platform the Republicans have triumphed beyond their most sanguine hopes, and yet now there are signs of discords and divisions in their camp on this very amendment. Here, then, is the opportunity for the Democracy, by a dexterous flank movement, to seize this Republican thunder and turn it against "Old Thaq" and his radical followers. followers.

The plan of action required is very simple. The chiefs of the Manhattan Club, who, as we understand, have been for some days revolving this problem over their oysters and champagne, have only to provide for the calling of a national convention, and to bring such convention, when assembled, to the adoption of the pending Constitutional amendment as the future platform of the reconstructed Demacracy. The wreck of the Chicago platform can never be raised; but the man who protested against fighting upon it as the Pemccratic candidate for the Presidency i the man to lead them for the amendment. W are satisfied that a Democratic convention on this platform and in the name of General McClellan would result in reviving the party into active and vigorous life again; that the movement in bringing all the excluded Southern States back into the Government and into 'happy accord" with this new Northern organization, would speedily give it a balance of power in Congress and per haps in the next Presidency looking at these aforesaid elements of discord and dissension now visible in the R publican

On the other hand, it is apparent that, unless the Northern Democracy take this new depart-ure, the managing politicians of the excluded States will remain intractable, obstinate, and defiant against the amendment, and that Con gress, in consequence of this Southern obitinacy, will, as a last resort, set those States back to the condition of Territories and go through, not only the Presidential election of 1868 but probably that of 1872, without them. To regain something of their old prestige in the North and recover the balance of power with the restora-tion of the South, the true course for what remains of the late great Democratic party is to call a national convention and endorse the Constitutional amendment. Bold measures alone can revive the party-such measures as will bring it from the rear into the front rank with the new order of things. And so we call upon the Manhattan Club to provide at once for a National Democratic Convention and the new departure suggested.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A FAIR WILL FE HELD IN THE A FAIR WILL BE HELD IN THE Alexander Presbyterian Church, N. E. corner of GPEEN and AINATLENTH Success, commencing LECL MB+R 17, and continuing until DLCL MB+R 126, in aid of the new church building. The active co-operation of the friends of the enterprise is so iclode contributions of money and materials may be sent to the house of the Pastor Rev. T. M. Cunningham, No 613 North Eighteenth street or to Mrs. James Ross Snowden, No. 1534 Green street.

12 10 62

TO ARCHITECTS.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW BUILD-INGS FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT AT WASH-INGTON, D.C.

Architects are invited to prepare plans and specifications and estin area of cost ion new fire proof buildings for the War Department, on the site new occupied by the War Department and adjacent vacant ground, in Washington, D. C.

The buildings required should have a superficial area as large as the site selected will admit of. Photographs of site, and an other miormation relating to compete for the work, upon application, personally or by letter, to the undersigned

A premium of \$2000 for the first, of \$2000 for the second, and of \$1000 for the third most acceptable plans and specifications received, will be awarded, upon the approval of the Hon. Secretary of War, by the Board of Officers charged with the duty of selecting a site and preparing plans and specifications for the buildings of the War Department under act of Congress approved July 28 1896.

The p. spes and specifications must be sent to the office of the eyet Lieuten, it closed T. J. Treadwell, Recorder of the Board Ordinance Office, Winder's Building, Washington, D. C., on or before the list day of February, 1867.

The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all

1867.

The Board will reserve the right to reject any or all plans submitted, should none be deemed suitable for the purpose, as well as to retain any or all of such

By order of the Board,
20 lm; T J. TREADWELL.
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, U. S. A., Becorder.

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK PHILADELPHIA, October 16, 1866.
The Vice-President of the Bank, Alexander Whilden.
Fsq. having in heav last, I view of a prolonged absence
in Europe resigned his position, the Board of Directors
to day elected J. W. Torre, Esq., Vice-President, and
II. P. & chetky, Esq., Cashler.
10 17 ALEXANDER G. CATTELL, President.

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL BANK.

PHILADELPHIA December 7, 1866.

The Annual Flection for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNE-DAY, the 9th day of January next, between the neurs of 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock F. M.

12 11 26t

W RUSHTON, Jr, Cashier.

NEW LONDON COPPER MINING COMPANY -A special meeting of the sock-holders will be neid on Fall AY, December 21 at the office No 128 touth FROMT at 330 F. M., to decide upon the future course of the Company, and other matters of importance.

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LEGAL NOTICES.

In the court of common pleas for the city and court of perilled perilled in the petilled in the said of real court of the said of real the unders given, appointed by the said of court to hear and report upon the cause of persons holding lots in the burying ground of the above congregation, share on the east a see of the bin street between Race and Vine streets in the city of Philadelphia beredy in accordance with the order of Court of hovember in accordance with the order of Court of hovember in the sives notice to all parties ho dess of lots, or interested therein to sprear before him at also office, No. 433 Walnut street, in said city on THURSDAY, the thirteenth day of December, A. D. 1866, at 3 of cipek I. M. then and here to present their several claims.

This notice is given for the purpose of enabling persons having relations buried in said ground or having rights of buriel granted to them by said corporation to present their objections to the saic of the ground and removal of the dead. IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR (movel of the dead.
11 28 12t THOMAS J. WORR) AL Frammer.

In The Orphans' Court for The City and County of Philadelphia.

Estate of 'HOMAS HANSELL, decased The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit settle and adjust the account of Will-HAM F. HANSELL, Administrator of the estate of 'HOMAS HAN ELL, deceased and to report distribution of the balance in the hands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on Thursbary, December 18, 1866, at 3 o'clock P M at his office, No 462 WALNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia.

WILLIAM D. BAKER,
124 tuths5t*

Auditor.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY
AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Est-te of JAMES A. STEWART deceased.
The Auditor appointed by the Court to audit settle, and adjust the account of ANNA STEWART, Administratrix of the Estate of JAME: A. STEWART, deceased, and to report distribution of the basence in the bands of the accountant, will meet the parties interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on THURSDAY, December 1. 1868, at 11 o'clock A. M. at his office No. 402 Wall-NUT Street in the City of Philadelphia
La Hiuthsott

ESTATE OF HENRY ROTH, DECEASED,—
having been granted to the undersigned all persons
indebted the eto will make payment, and those having
claims, will present them to

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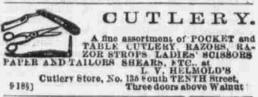
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